

Illinois Early Learning Council Program Standards and Quality Committee

Co-Chairs: Jan Maruna & Jeanna Capito

IDHS Liaison: Linda Saterfield

Staffer: Joni Scritchlow

The Illinois Early Learning Council Program Standards and Quality Committee will focus on best practices and implementation of programmatic changes that support quality in all sectors and all components of work. Initial priorities of the Committee will cluster around four key areas: (1) Coordinate the development and implementation of a comprehensive cross-sector Total Quality Rating Improvement System (TQRIS) designed to measure and support quality “improvement” across all settings (2) Support implementation of proposed revisions to Child Day Care Licensing rules and regulations which support quality environments for children (3) Support a well-educated, well-compensated workforce who nurture and support the development and learning of all children in Illinois and (4) Integrate infant toddler best practices throughout all early childhood systems and improve coordination across infant and toddler programs and services at state and local community levels.

The committee intends to utilize and build on the work of key, current statewide groups such as the IDHS Child Care Advisory Council and the Professional Development Advisory Council as well as other topic specific advisory bodies to assure cross-sector work in meeting the goals of the Illinois Early Learning Council Strategic Plan.

Goal 1: Fully support integration/implementation of all Program Standards and Quality Committee approved recommendations into larger statewide system.

	Action Steps	Responsibility	Timeframe/Status
Objective: Provide necessary supports to ensure successful integration and implementation of all approved Program Standards and Quality (PSQ) committee recommendations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide necessary background/research or other supports to ensure implementation of IELC PSQ approved committee recommendations (and IELC previously approved recommendations) 	Joint work: full Illinois Early Learning Council, IELC Exec. committee, PSQ Communication & Coordination through Advisory Bodies	July 1, 2012 – June 30, 2015 (entire time period of Strategic Plan)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish “report-back” process as part of ongoing IELC meetings to provide opportunities for communication related to implementation progress 	Joint work: full Illinois Early Learning Council, IELC Exec. Committee, PSQ Communication &	July 1, 2012 – June 30, 2015 (entire time period of Strategic Plan)

		Coordination through Advisory Bodies	
Measurable Outcomes			
Comments	IELC PSQ Work Plan to be reviewed, with action steps and measurable outcomes developed in conjunction with timelines under direction of PSQ Steering Committee upon IELC Strategic Plan approval in conjunction with key councils/committees (e.g. IDHS Child Care Advisory Council; IDCFS Licensing Advisory Committee, Professional Development Advisory Council) and any others as identified.		

Goal 2: Coordinate the development and implementation of a comprehensive cross-sector TQRIS System in Illinois designed to measure and support quality “improvement” across *all* settings.

Objective 1:	Action Steps	Responsibility	Timeframe/Status
Review Illinois 2011 Early Learning Challenge Race-to-the-Top Application proposed (TQRIS) program revisions for current viability and potential implementation to strengthen 2012 RTT application	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Help support formation and coordination of interagency TQRIS Leadership Team (e.g. IDHS, ISBE, Head Start, IDCFS) to develop a comprehensive TQRIS framework for Illinois Support TQRIS program redesign and implementation Support interagency program review and approval processes Develop and support strategies for statewide implementation, including information/education of quality readily available to parents 	Ad Hoc TQRIS comprised of key representatives	July 1, 2012 – Dec. 31, 2012
Objective 2:			
Ensure interagency support for TQRIS implementation processes and guidelines	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review current cross-sector Early Learning Challenge RTT guidance and complete comparative analysis to TQRIS proposed program, identifying critical program requirements and (any) potential redesign required to meet federal guidelines Review and provide evidence based research and suggest program implementation requirements necessary for cross- 	Joint Work with Ad Hoc TQRIS comprised of key representatives	July 1, 2012 – December 31, 2012
		Joint Work with Ad Hoc TQRIS and Joint	July 1, 2012 – Dec. 31, 2012

	sector alignment that ensure inclusion of cross-sector statewide Gateways to Opportunity Credentials into TQRIS framework; embedding nutrition, inclusion and family engagement/partnership quality indicators, as well as support development and implementation of quality indicators for birth to three programs under TQRIS program	work with ELC Systems Integration and Alignment Committee	
Measurable Outcomes			
Comments	Key Partnerships: IDHS Child Care Advisory Council; RTT Interagency Team and Systems Integration and Alignment Committee		

Goal 3: Ensure Child Day Care Licensing rules and regulations support quality environments for children.

Objective 1: Review current IDCFS licensing rules and regulations and make recommendations, if needed, to strengthen requirements that support quality care for children	Action Steps	Responsibility	Timeframe/Status
Objective 2: Ensure interagency support for any proposed IDCFS licensing changes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Current IDCFS Licensing Advisory Committee Strategic Plan and/or goals to be reviewed, integrated within IELC PSQ Work Plan 	Joint work with IDCFS Licensing Advisory Committee	July 1, 2012 – Dec. 31, 2012
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete comparative analysis of current IDCFS licensing rules and regulations with federal guidelines/priorities 	Joint work with IDCFS Licensing Advisory Committee	July 1, 2013-June 30, 2015
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Suggest revisions to IDCFS licensing rules and regulations (if necessary) to support quality environments for children <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Embed Gateways to Opportunity credentials (in Illinois statute) in licensing language as meeting staff qualification requirements Provide recommendations to strengthen IDCFS Day Care Licensing requirements for health and safety to improve/support quality care for children Develop strategies to support implementation of the cross-sector recommendations passed by the Infant Toddler Committee (former) and IDCFS Licensing Advisory Committee in 2010 - 2012 to increase quality of infant toddler care in licensed center based programs 	Joint work with IDCFS Licensing Advisory Committee	July 1, 2012 – June 30, 2015
Objective 3: Help support current IDCFS Advisory Committee			

Integration into IELC Program Standards and Quality Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scan RTT application guidelines for changes necessary in day care licensing to support/strengthen Illinois application 	Joint work with Ad Hoc TQRIS and IDCFS Licensing Advisory Committee up	July 1, 2012- December 31, 2012
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Require Gateways to Opportunity Registry membership for all licensed providers 	Joint work with IDCFS Licensing Advisory Committee	July 1, 2012- December 31, 2012
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support interagency program review and approval processes including implementation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop strategies to support implementation of the cross-sector recommendations passed by the joint IELC (former) Oversight & Coordination and Workforce Development Committees in 2011 to increase administrator qualifications for licensed early childhood programs 	Joint work with IDCFS Licensing Advisory Committee	July 1, 2012- December 31, 2015
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with current IDCFS Licensing Advisory Committee to assure integration of priorities and representation 	Joint work with IDCFS Licensing Advisory Committee	July 1, 2013-June 30, 2015
Measurable Outcomes			
Comments	<p>Key Partnership: IDCFS Advisory Committee or integrated committee</p> <p>Current IDCFS Licensing Advisory Committee Strategic Plan and/or goals will be integrated into IELC PSQ work plan</p>		

Goal 4: Ensure early care and education practitioners are diverse, well-qualified, well-compensated professionals who nurture and support the development and learning of *all* children in Illinois

Objective 1: Ensure an adequate and stable supply of diverse, well-educated, fully prepared/qualified early childhood professional	Action Steps	Responsibility	Timeframe/Status
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review and integrate relevant work plans/strategic plans into IELC PSQ work plan (e.g. former IELC Workforce Development Work Plan, Professional Development Advisory Council (PDAC) Strategic Plan, joint former IELC Workforce Diversity Work Plan) 	Joint work with Professional Development Advisory Council	July 1, 2012 – December 31, 2012

<p>workforce</p> <p>Objective 2: Advance a high-quality professional development system that includes and recognizes the valuable characteristics and variety of professional development organizations, services and programs which are currently operating and being utilized by Illinois early care and education practitioners</p> <p>Objective 3: Develop and assure implementation of a wide range of professional development workforce supports that address challenges of recruitment, diversity, retention and access</p> <p>Objective 4: Identify strategies to remove or mitigate barriers for workforce professional development</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop strategies for increasing the number of well-prepared bilingual early childhood practitioners (<i>Moved from former Goal 5, page 6</i>) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work to ensure that English as a Second Language practitioners have access to professional development opportunities including financial incentives (e.g. Gateways Scholarship Program, etc.) • Ensure targeted ARRA funds are utilized by diverse practitioners including those who are English Language Learners 	Joint work with Professional Development Advisory Council, Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE), Illinois Resource Center (IRC)	<p>July 1, 2013-June 30, 2015</p> <p>July 1, 2012-April 30, 2013</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase awareness and understanding within field of the Professional Educator Licensure changes. (Note: new Illinois Professional Educator License direction will come from the Illinois State Board of Education in 2012), (<i>moved from former goal 5, p. 6</i>) which include bilingual/English as a second language coursework and credentials, and address barriers (such as ICTS Test of Academic Proficiency/TAP) 	Joint work with IELC System Integration & Alignment, ISBE and PDAC	July 1, 2012-June 30, 2013
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oversee implementation of collaborative Faculty Institutes for ECE faculty members to increase pedagogical and researched-based knowledge of cultural and linguistic diversity 	Joint work with Higher Education, PDAC and ISBE/IRC	July 1, 2012 – April 30, 2013
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop strategies to address findings from the Berkley Workforce Study and from the collection of workforce data through the Gateways to Opportunity Registry and Gateways programs related to cultural and linguistic diversity 	Joint work with PDAC	July 1, 2012-June 30, 2013
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop strategies to assure implementation of statewide, cross-sector Cultural and Linguistic Principles (currently in development) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore ways to use financial supports to potentially recruit culturally and linguistically diverse practitioners 	Joint work with Professional Development Advisory Council	July 1, 2013-June 30, 2015

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop strategies to integrate policies for appropriate education levels to support the future vision of a well-educated, qualified workforce for early childhood across all sectors 	Joint work with Professional Development Advisory Council	July 1, 2012-June 30, 2012
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify and develop additional credentials necessary to support a well-educated workforce (e.g. Family Child Care Credential, Family Specialist Credential; Relationship-Based Professional Development Credential (coach/mentor), Home Visitor Credential) 	Joint work with Professional Development Advisory Council	July 1, 2013-June 30, 2015
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create workforce compensation models <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop strategies for implementation of workforce compensation models tied to education levels of early childhood practitioners (<i>utilize PDAC Financial Supports Committee research and findings</i>) Continue to pursue workforce development strategies including providing financial support in the form of scholarships to train and certify an adequate number of teachers to meet the estimated demand of at least 1,000 teachers by 2014 Explore ways to expand current Gateways to Opportunity Scholarship Program across multiple funding streams to provide cross-sector, comprehensive support 	Joint work with Professional Development Advisory Council	July 1, 2012-June 30, 2013 July 1, 2013-June 30, 2015
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Build quality training related to child health, mental health, nutrition, cultural competence and linguistic development into the birth to three (as well through age 8) into the early childhood professional development system 	Joint work with Professional Development Advisory Council, IRC, Head Start TA	July 1, 2013-June 30, 2015
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue the development and coordination of plans for future workforce, teacher, and Principal preparation - including diversity, recruitment, retention, and training 	Joint work with Professional Development Advisory Council, P-20 Council, IRC, Head Start TA	July 1, 2013-June 30, 2015

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop and implement statewide policies that require articulation between two-and four-year higher education institutions (e.g. explore possible use of Gateways to Opportunity Scholarship Program as an incentive for schools to develop articulation agreements) 	Joint work with Professional Development Advisory Council, P-20 Council	July 1, 2013-June 30, 2015
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review and make recommendations to remove identified barriers toward progression on Illinois Career Lattice for early childhood professionals (approved by IELC in 2005) 	Joint work with Professional Development Advisory Council	July 1, 2013-June 30, 2015
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Integrate education and Gateways to Opportunity Credentials into Great START scale and align scale with Career Lattice 	Joint work with IDHS Child Care Advisory Council and PDAC	July 1, 2012-June 30, 2013
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete the Infant Toddler Credential Level 6 (graduate degree level credential) pilot in preparation for statewide rollout and implementation 	Joint work with PDAC	July 1, 2012-June 30, 2013
Measurable Outcomes			
Comments	Key partnerships include P-20 Council and Systems Integration and Alignment		

Goal 5: Ensure quality practices and programming across systems serving birth to three

Objective 1: Assure implementation of quality monitoring, standards, and guidelines for birth to three services		Responsibility	Timeframe/Status
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement and revise, as needed, recommendations for monitoring of birth to five home visiting programs, including recommendations on applying joint monitoring and quality coaching principles across all sectors 	Joint work with Home Visiting Task Force and ELC System Integration & Alignment Committees	July 1, 2012-June 30, 2013

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitor quality of Birth to Three Early Learning Guidelines while aligning with Early Learning Standards and K-12 common core 	System Integration & Alignment Committee to take lead, with support from PSQ	July 1, 2012-June 30, 2013
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Embed Infant Toddler Early Learning Guidelines within TQRIS 	Joint work: TQRIS Ad Hoc, IELC, IDCFS Licensing Advisory Committee	July 1, 2012-December 31, 2012
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Integrate Infant Toddler Early Learning Guidelines within Gateways to Opportunity Infant Toddler Credential Benchmarks to assure systemic utilization 	Joint work with PDAC and Ad Hoc Infant Toddler Committee	July 1, 2012-June 30, 2013
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase awareness and utilization of Infant Toddler Early Learning Guidelines within higher education institutions and among training entities 	Joint work with PDAC	July 1, 2013-June 30, 2015
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coordinate utilization of Infant Toddler Early Learning Guidelines in partnership with IDCFS 	Joint work with IDCFS Licensing Advisory Committee	July 1, 2013-June 30, 2015
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure alignment with Illinois Interagency Council on Early Intervention around goals for Birth to Three Systems. 	Joint work with Interagency Council on Early Intervention	July 1, 2012-June 30, 2013
Measurable Outcomes			
Comments	Additional responsibilities related to birth to three will be identified and embedded as action steps throughout entire work plan		